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Page 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm



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Pro-RFK Jr. letter to the Senate includes names of doctors whose licenses were revoked or suspended

By MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press
PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) —
 A letter submitted to the U.S. Senate that states it was sent by physicians in support of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s nomination as secretary of Health and Human Services includes the names of doctors who have had their licenses revoked, suspended or faced other discipline, The Associated Press has found. The letter was meant to lend credibility to Kennedy's nomination, which has faced strenuous opposition from medical experts due to his two decades of anti-vaccine activism. Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, a medical doctor who boasts on his official



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President Donald Trump's nominee to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services, testifies during a Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions hearing for his pending confirmation on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

website of an effort he created to vaccinate 36,000 children against hepatitis B, expressed hesitancy about Kennedy's nomination and is seen as a key vote.

The AP found that in addition to the physicians who had faced disciplinary action, many of the nearly 800 signers are not doctors. The letter with the names of those who signed was provided to the AP by Sen. Ron Johnson's office after he entered it into the Congressional Record on Wednesday during the first of Kennedy's two confirmation hearings. Among those who signed it were a self-described journalist, a certified public accountant, a firefighter/paramedic, a certified health coach and someone who said they had a bachelor's degree "with an emphasis on Jungian Psychology." The signers include at least 75 nurses, as well as physician assistants. More than 90 did not include any credentials at all. Over 20 were chiropractors, representing an industry that has funded Kennedy's work. An AP investigation found that donations from a chiropractic group represented one-sixth of the revenues collected by Kennedy's anti-vaccine nonprofit in 2019. The letter was organized and submitted by MAHA Action, which is run by Del Bigtree, who worked for Kennedy's presidential campaign and is a long-time anti-vaccine activist. The Washington Post reported Wednesday that Kennedy transferred the

trademark for the "MAHA" slogan to an limited liability company run by Bigtree. Kennedy reported that he received \$100,000 in income from licensing the slogan and said in his financial disclosures that he had transferred the trademark for "no compensation." MAHA stands for "Make America Healthy Again," a play on President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again." Emma Post, a MAHA Action spokesperson, said in an email that the letter was "shared and circulated organically in a grassroots manner with explicit instructions that it was for physicians only to sign on to." She did not address the AP's questions about what further steps the group took to verify credentials, if any. Bigtree and Kennedy did not return messages seeking comment. A White House spokesman, Kush Desai, said the administration looks forward to the Senate's swift confirmation of Kennedy. The letter includes the header "Doctors for Robert F. Kennedy Jr." and begins with the words, "We, the undersigned physicians." It says lower down that it "reflects the collective voice of physicians and medical professionals" committed to addressing chronic disease. The AP's review found that at least 10 doctors who signed the letter had run into trouble with state medical boards or their board certification body for a variety of alleged misconduct. Sanctions they faced included having their license revoked or suspended, being put on probation, receiving a reprimand or other action. One received a warning letter from the Federal Trade Commission, which said he was unlawfully advertising products as treatments or prevention for COVID-19, including intravenous nutrient therapy and vitamins. Among the signers was Paul Thomas, an anti-vaccine doctor who voluntarily surrendered. □

Live Entertainment at 8PM

<p>MON Latin Dance Show</p>	<p>TUE Steelpan Music</p>
<p>WED Cultural Dance Show</p>	<p>THU Acrobatic Show</p>
<p>SUN Violin Show</p>	<p>Nightly Watershow 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm</p>

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FBI employees questioned about involvement in Jan. 6 cases as Justice Department weighs firings

By ERIC TUCKER and ALAN-NA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of FBI employees who participated in investigations related to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol are being asked to complete in-depth questionnaires about their involvement in the inquiries as the Trump administration Justice Department weighs disciplinary actions that could result in firings. The questions, which were described to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the matter, ask employees to describe their office and title and to specify their involvement in the Jan. 6 investigations, including whether they participated in search warrants, conducted interviews and testified at trial. The survey is in keeping with an extraordinary Justice Department directive Friday for the names, titles and offices of all FBI employees who worked on investigations related



An FBI seal is displayed on a podium before a news conference at the field office in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025.

to Jan. 6, when pro-Trump rioters who stormed the Capitol triggered a violent and bloody clash with law enforcement in a massive attempt to block the certification of election results. A memo from acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, who defended Trump in his criminal cases

before joining the administration, said Justice Department officials would then carry out a "review process to determine whether any additional personnel actions are necessary." That's on top of the forced departures of more than a half-dozen senior FBI executives, the reassignment

last month of several key career Justice Department officials, as well as the firings of roughly two dozen employees at the U.S. attorney's office in Washington who participated in the Jan. 6 investigations. The scrutiny of career agents is highly unusual given that rank-and-file FBI

agents do not select the cases they are assigned to work on, do not historically switch positions or receive any sort of discipline because of their participation in politically sensitive cases and especially because there's been no evidence any FBI agents or lawyers who investigated or prosecuted the cases engaged in misconduct.

Of the more than 1,500 people who were charged with federal crimes in the Jan. 6 riot, more than 1,000 people pleaded guilty, including more than 200 who admitted to assault. Another roughly 250 people were convicted of crimes by a judge or a jury after a trial. Some 4,000 agents, analysts and other employees are believed to have been sent the questionnaires, said the person, who insisted on anonymity to discuss internal communications. The questionnaires were sent on Sunday, with a Monday deadline for completion. □

Associated Press

USAID security leaders on leave after trying to keep Musk's DOGE from classified info, officials say

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has placed two top security chiefs at the U.S. Agency for International Development on leave after they refused to turn over classified material in restricted areas to Elon Musk's government-inspection teams, a current and a former U.S. official told The Associated Press on Sunday. Members of Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE, eventually did gain access Saturday to the aid agency's classified information, which includes intelligence reports, the former official said. Musk's DOGE crew lacked high-enough security clearance to access that information, so the two USAID security officials — John



A man walks past boxes of USAID humanitarian aid at a warehouse at the Tienditas International Bridge on the outskirts of Cucuta, Colombia, Feb. 21, 2019, on the border with Venezuela.

Associated Press

Vorhees and deputy Brian McGill — believed themselves legally obligated to deny access. The current and former U.S. officials had knowledge of the incident and spoke

on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share the information. Musk on Sunday responded to an X post about the news by saying, "USAID is a

criminal organization. Time for it to die." He followed with multiple additional posts on X about the aid agency. Kate Miller, who serves on an advisory board for

DOGE, said in a separate post that no classified material was accessed "without proper security clearances."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It comes a day after DOGE carried out a similar operation at the Treasury Department, gaining access to sensitive information including the Social Security and Medicare customer payment systems. The Washington Post reported that a senior Treasury official had resigned over Musk's team accessing sensitive information.

Musk formed DOGE in cooperation with the Trump administration with the stated goal of finding ways to fire federal workers, cut programs and slash federal regulations. □

As crews clean up from L.A. wildfires, some residents are furious over hazardous waste

By DORANY PINEDA

Associated Press

DUARTE, Calif. (AP) — Not far from where Ceci Carroll lives, a rock-mining company has polluted the air with dust across the San Gabriel Valley, she said.

Now, as crews clean charred remains from the Los Angeles wildfires, she worries about a new potential source of contamination: a site to process hazardous debris from the Eaton Fire.

"I'm concerned about the community and also the school districts here, where we have children," said Carroll, a Duarte resident of 23 years and former local school board member.

"We're dealing with the site with the chemicals and hazardous materials," she said. "Parents are absolutely concerned."

Carroll is among residents from Duarte, Azusa and nearby cities opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's use of Lario Park in Irwindale as a temporary site to separate, package and transport potentially hazardous materials from the Eaton Fire.

In ordinary times, people picnic, bike or ride horses on equestrian trails in the federally owned land. They now worry about dangerous waste that could pollute the air or seep into groundwater.

The blazes that began on



Fire-damaged vehicles are lined up at a dealership after the Eaton Fire swept through Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025 in Altadena, Calif.

Jan. 7 charred thousands of buildings, cars and electronics across the Los Angeles area. The EPA has begun the enormous task of removing potentially hundreds of tons of hazardous materials from the Eaton and Palisades fires. That includes paints, pesticides, solvents, compressed gas cylinders, ammunition and lithium-ion batteries from electric cars that could turn toxic when burned.

"The removal of these materials should not come at the cost of creating a toxic environment for communities already disproportionately impacted by pollution," Los Angeles County

Supervisor Hilda Solis said in a statement.

The mostly Latino communities adjacent to the site are exposed to higher levels of ozone and particulate matter pollution than other areas, according to data from the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Experts acknowledge residents' concerns, but say hazardous waste is not necessarily harmful as long as safety measures are in place and the waste is not stored on site for years.

Residents have questions about waste site

At a town hall Wednesday, California Sen. Susan Ru-

bio and local mayors opposing the site grilled state and federal officials: How was the site chosen? Why weren't we consulted or notified? Why truck toxic waste 15 miles (24 kilometers) from the burn zone and risk contaminating our communities? What testing will be done after it's closed?

Hundreds of residents crammed into the performing arts center and spilled into the hall. They shouted "Shut it down!" and chanted "Leave it in Altadena!" EPA coordinator Tara Fitzgerald told the audience that sites closer to the Eaton burn zone were be-

Associated Press

ing used for emergency fire operations, including the Rose Bowl and the Santa Anita Park in Pasadena. They chose the Lario Park site because it suited their needs and was available. She emphasized the EPA has done this work for years across the state.

"We did the exact same thing" for the Woolsey, Santa Rosa and Napa fires, Fitzgerald said, and "we did not have any impacts to the community during the entire process."

But the Eaton and Palisades fires are unprecedented. Together, they torched the largest urban area on record in California, according to an Associated Press analysis, and more than double the urban acreage consumed by the 2018 Woolsey Fire.

EPA says protective measures being taken

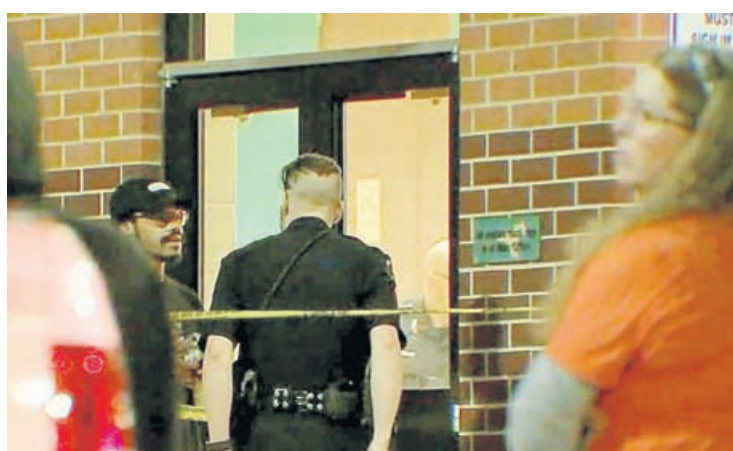
The EPA said it would regularly monitor air, sample soil, use water trucks to control dust and transport waste out of the area daily.

The agency lines areas with plastic where materials are processed and uses wattles, earthen berms and other items to control spills. The waste will be transported on surface streets, not freeways, so trucks can travel at a slower and safer speed, the EPA's Celeste McCoy told the county Board of Supervisors. □

Parent at a Texas school band competition tackles a gunman who injured 1, officials say

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — A parent tackled a man who opened fire during a band competition at a Houston-area high school as several others then helped disarm and detain him in a shooting that injured one person, officials said.

The man in his 80s entered Pasadena Memorial High School on Saturday evening during the competition that involved students from numerous school districts and discharged a small-caliber weapon, police said. Police said in a statement they did not yet



In this image taken from video, first responders arrive at Pasadena Memorial High School after a shooting near Houston, Texas.

Associated Press

know a motive in the shooting.

The Angleton Independent School District said the person who was injured was a percussion technical consultant for their band. Police said the man, who the district said was struck in the shoulder, was taken to a hospital and was in stable condition.

The man who opened fire wasn't affiliated with the competition, according to the Pasadena Independent School District. He was tackled by a parent after discharging the weapon and then school district police and "several good

Samaritans" helped apprehend him, the district said.

"Within 60 seconds a suspect was disarmed and they prevented further shooting by this suspect," Pasadena police Chief Jerry Wright said at a news conference.

The Pearland Independent School District said in a statement that some parents of the students in their district "bravely intervened, successfully subduing the individual and detaining them until law enforcement arrived."

Argentines protest President Milei's diatribe against 'wokeism' at Davos

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators gathered in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires and in cities across the country to protest President Javier Milei's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos last week, during which he slammed 'wokeism,' feminism and other progressive ideals.

Protesters were clad in rainbow-colored flags and bore banners that read "rights are not negotiable." Dubbed the "Federal March of Anti-Fascist and Anti-Racist Pride," the LG-BTQ+ community called the protest after the speech on Jan. 23 to combat "the economic violence, political persecution and sexual repression of Javier Milei's government."



People gather in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, to protest President Javier Milei's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, during which he criticized "sick wokeism," social welfare, feminism, identity politics and the fight against climate change.

Associated Press

Rights' groups, unions and political parties also joined the protest.

In Switzerland, Milei sharply

criticized "sick wokeism," social welfare, feminism, identity politics and the fight against climate change,

adding that "in its most extreme versions gender ideology constitutes plain and simple child abuse."

Protester Germán Paladino, an industrial engineer, said Milei's government was not taking care of public issues such as healthcare and education and was instead lashing out at people's private life.

"I don't know if this march can change anything, but if it could put a break on Javier Milei's remarks which were rather aggressive," Paladino said.

"I am here to defend our rights, those which we have won and those that are currently under attack," said Milagros, a 33-year-old visual artist.

In recent decades, Argentina has enshrined progressive laws consecrating sexual diversity and equal marriage rights, among others.

Trump's trade war among allies triggers retaliation from Canada and Mexico

By ROB GILLIES and MARIA VERZA

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's prime minister and Mexico's president ordered retaliatory tariffs on goods from the U.S., following through with their threats after U.S. Donald Trump sparked a trade war by imposing sweeping tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico and China.

Canada is initially targeting \$30 billion Canadian (US\$20 billion) in goods imported from the U.S. with tariffs of 25% to come into force on Feb. 4 including beverages, cosmetics and paper products. A second list targeting \$125 billion Canadian (\$85 billion) in goods will be unveiled soon and will be implemented after public consultation. That will include passenger vehicles, trucks, steel and aluminum products, certain fruits and vegetables, beef, pork, dairy products and more.

A senior Canadian government official said on a briefing with reporters the list is intended to mobilize certain Republican voices



President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks to the crowd during an event marking her first 100 days in office, at the Zócalo, Mexico City's main square, in Mexico City, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

around the president. It wasn't immediately clear if that will include Elon Musk and Tesla in the second phase.

Mexico has so far only said it will impose retaliatory tariffs, without mentioning any rate nor products.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum spoke by phone Sat-

urday after Trump's administration imposed sweeping tariffs — 25% on goods from Canada and Mexico, with a lower rate of 10% for Canadian oil, and 10% on imports from China — although there is still no indication the two countries are coordinating responses or will act in concert in the coming days.

Trudeau's office said in a

statement that Canada and Mexico agreed "to enhance the strong bilateral relations." Canadian officials have had extensive dialogue with their Mexican counterparts but a senior Canadian official said he would not go as far to say their tariff responses are coordinated.

"Now is the time to chose products made right here

in Canada," Trudeau posted on X on Sunday. On Saturday, he even suggested Canadians should not buy U.S. products or vacation in the U.S.

Canada is the largest export market for 36 states and Mexico is the largest trading partner of the U.S. Canada and Mexico ordered the tariffs despite Trump's further threat to increase the duties charged if retaliatory levies are placed on American goods.

"We're certainly not looking to escalate but we will stand up for Canada," Trudeau said late Saturday.

At the local level, some authorities in provinces like Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia will remove American liquor brands from government store shelves. The Liquor Control Board of Ontario sells nearly \$1 billion worth of American wine, beer, spirits and seltzers every year, Ontario Premier Doug Ford pointed out Sunday.

"Not anymore," Ford said in a statement. "Starting Tuesday, we're removing American." □

Hezbollah announces funeral for slain longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah set for Feb 23

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese Hezbollah group Sunday announced the funeral of its longtime leader will take place on Feb. 23, months after he was assassinated in a series of Israeli airstrikes in a southern Beirut suburb.

Secretary-General Naim Kassem made the announcement regarding his predecessor Hassan Nasrallah in a pre-recorded speech. It came days after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement that ended the war between the Lebanese militant group and Israel was extended until Feb 18.

Nasrallah was killed on Sept. 27 after a series of Israeli airstrikes struck several buildings in a southern Beirut suburb. A top security aide said Nasrallah was inside the militant group's war operations room when the strikes took place.

Israeli troops are still present in parts of southern



Lebanese citizens gather to return to their villages, while Israeli soldiers block a road leading to the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Kila, Lebanon, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

Lebanon, where under the ceasefire agreement they are supposed to gradually withdraw while Hezbollah's militants withdraw north of the Litani River as Lebanese army soldiers disperse. Residents of those villages, many waving Hezbollah

flags, have been protesting in those villages and have scuffled with Israeli troops, which Kassem praised.

"The South says that there is no possibility for Israel to remain in it, there is no possibility for Israel to remain an occupier, and let everyone

know that the sacrifices, no matter how great, will ultimately lead to the liberation of the land and the exit of Israel," said Kassem.

Earlier on Sunday, Israeli forces opened fire to disperse protesters in the southern villages of Yaroun

Associated Press

and Kfar Kila. The Lebanese Health Ministry did not announce any casualties.

Last week, 24 protesters were killed after Israeli troops opened fire on them, according to the health ministry.

Despite its military capabilities largely destroyed in the war, Israel says it needs to remain in the country longer to take out Hezbollah's military infrastructure, including its tunnel network. The funeral procession will also be for Hashem Safiedine another slain senior Hezbollah official who was seen as Nasrallah's successor.

Nasrallah led Hezbollah since 1992, and is seen as a transformative leader to the group, which grew from a local militant group into a regional paramilitary force with an influential political presence in Lebanese government. □

Rubio says Panama must reduce Chinese influence around the canal area or face possible U.S. action

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

PANAMA CITY (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino on Sunday that the Central American ally must immediately reduce Chinese influence over the Panama Canal area or face potential retaliation from the Trump administration. Mulino said later that "there is no real threat of retaking the canal or the use of force."

Rubio, on his first foreign trip as America's top diplomat, held face-to-face talks with Mulino, who has resisted pressure from the new U.S. government over Panama's management of the waterway that is vital to global trade.

Speaking on behalf of President Donald Trump, who has demanded that the canal be returned to U.S. control, Rubio told Mulino that Trump had made a



Panama's President Jose Mulino, left, and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrive for a meeting at the presidential palace in Panama City, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

preliminary determination that China's presence in the canal area violates a treaty that led to the United States turning the waterway over to Panama in 1999. That treaty calls for the permanent neutrality of

the American-built canal. "Secretary Rubio made clear that this status quo is unacceptable and that absent immediate changes, it would require the United States to take measures necessary to protect its

rights under the treaty," the State Department said in a summary of the meeting. "I don't feel like there's a real threat against the treaty and its validity," Mulino said.

The warning from Rubio

comes as Trump has increased pressure on Washington's neighbors and allies, including the canal demand. On Saturday, Trump announced he was imposing major tariffs on Canada and Mexico, prompting retaliation from those countries.

Mulino called it a "good-faith meeting" that was "respectful" and "positive" and held "to clear up doubts." He acknowledged that China's role in the ports at either end of the canal has raised concerns with Washington. But the president said the consortium controlling them was being audited and that the canal authority would give Rubio a more detailed explanation.

Mulino did say Panama would not be renewing its agreement with China's Belt and Road Initiative when it expires. □

Associated Press

Feeling parched? Grab refreshments by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These “coconut stands” can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during

family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)



Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!



(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is “Bon bini.” Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say “hello” in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English “hello” or “hey”, or Dutch “hallo” to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with

“con bay?” or “con ta?” Con bay is a shortened version of “con ta bay?”, which essentially means “how are you?”

The word “con” in Papiamento means “how?” and is pronounced with a rounder “o” sounds, like in the English word “cone”. “Ta bay” refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word “ayo” (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use “te oro”, which means “see you later”.

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced by Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word “bon” means “good”, and while “dia” does not directly mean “morning” in English, it is used often to re-

fer to the morning time.

2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use “bon tardi” to greet people, which means “good afternoon”. “Tardi” actually comes from the word “atardi”, which directly translates to “afternoon”. However, the shortened “tardi” is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, “bon nochi” means “good night”. Just like “tardi”, “nochi” is actu-

ally the shortened version of the word “anochi”.

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are “si” and our no’s are “no”. Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say “se”, which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper

and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is “danki”, which means literally “thank you”. “Danki” is derived from the Dutch word “bedankt”. Though we don’t really have a translation for “I appreciate it” in English, we do use “masha danki” to convey the message. “Masha” means “a lot” or “very”, so “masha danki” means “thank you very much”.

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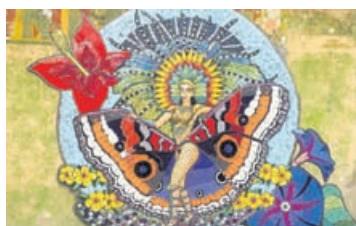
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Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.



Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A



collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of

an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brighten-



ing up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer.

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory.

Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Luis &

Elma Erazo.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is enjoying the amazing people and island and making new friends. Third time back to your wonderful and happy island. We arrived on December 19, 2024 at the Marriott Courtyard and soon after met Bill from Ohio and Mark and Margie from Albany ,NY. We spent days seeing the sites enjoying each others company and laughs."

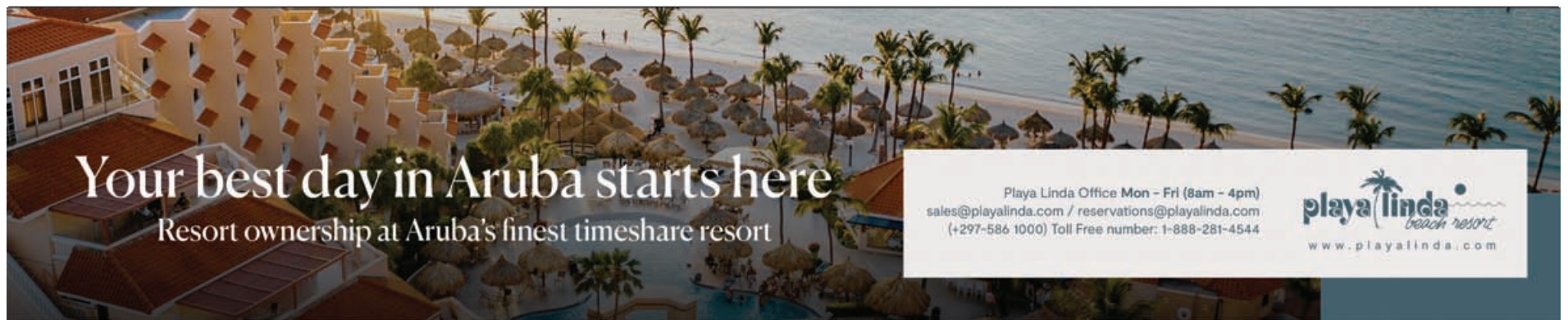
Pictured right to left, Elma Erazo, Luis Erazo, Bill Jordan,

Margie and Mark.

Thank you for sending us this

wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!





Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses.

Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher

areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you're wanting to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the



rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in it-



self, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

cause of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Known locally as Fisherman's Hut, here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities.

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, be-



Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower.

That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it

also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.



Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Mon-



day to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “funchi hasa”

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter

4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with



some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta



flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



The Aruban Gold Rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as



word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers

would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground.

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that

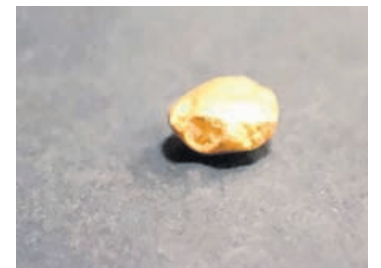


were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

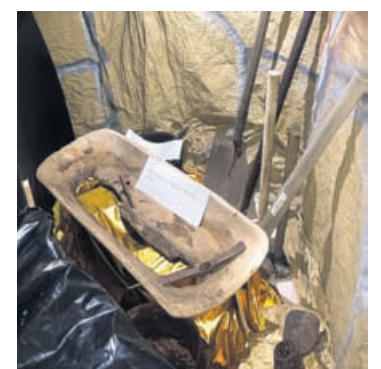
According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more



gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered



as historical monuments.

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

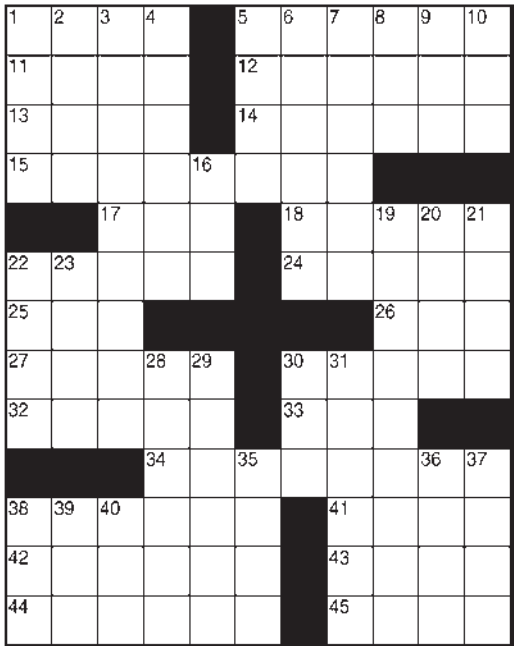


CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Most tender writer 45 Sink problem 5 Handout seeker 11 Yemen neighbor 12 Incense 13 Forbidden act 14 Split to unite 15 Mysterious 17 Groan inducer 18 Oozes 22 Flight makeup 24 Check the fit of 25 Mythical piper 26 Yale rooter 27 Wield, as power 30 Slump 32 Electrician, at times 33 Tatter 34 He finds somebody sleeping in his bed 38 Gaming spot 41 "Frozen" princess 42 Defeated 43 "Why don't we!"

DOWN 1 Sharpen 2 Singer 3 Kitchen gadget 4 Get hard, as a muscle 5 Tavern order 6 Sign up 7 Produce pro 8 Opening 9 Long time 10 Cardinal color

16 Print units 19 Revelation 20 Game with mallets 21 Scissors sound 22 Gush voice 23 Fare carrier 28 Sales offer 29 Barbers 30 Parched 31 Bordering on obscene 35 Crooked 36 Opposed 37 Rough 38 Gym rat's six-pack 39 Old roadster 40 Vehicle



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-1 CRYPTOQUOTE
X O D G E Q C T Q I V F G Q G X M
G B G Q I V F X O S V H F H J G D H Q
T O K O H V F X O S V H Q G S Q G V .

— J T V X G O R G M V Q H O S
Cryptoquote: ALL GREAT BEGINNINGS START IN THE DARK, WHEN THE MOON GREET'S YOU TO A NEW DAY AT MIDNIGHT. — SHANNON L. ALDER

Cruise ship Schedule: February 01 - 08 2025

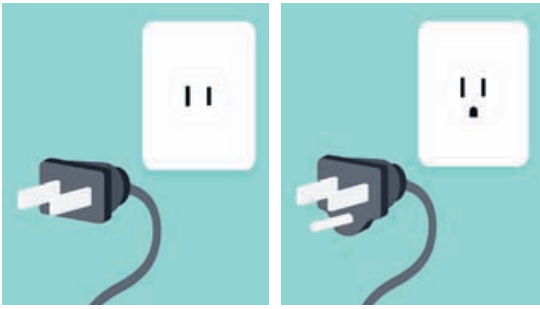
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	AIDAPERLA CARNIVAL MIRACLE EXPLORER OF THE SEAS STAR PRIDE	09.00 08.00 16.30 06.00	22.00 22.00 **** 16.00	B C I G	1 1 1 1
SUN	02	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	18.00	I	-
MON	03	OCEANIA SIRENA RESILIENT LADY	07.00 09.00	18.00 23.00	B C	1 1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE CARNIVAL HORIZON NORWEGIAN VIVA	08.00 09.00 13.00	18.00 23.00 21.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	05	AIDABELLA CELEBRITY REFLECTION SEABOURN OVATION	10.00 10.30 07.00	22.00 21.00 19.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	06	ROTTERDAM AIDAMAR	08.00 10.00	23.00 20.00	B C	1 1
FRI	07	MARELLA EXPLORER 2 EMERALD PRINCESS	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SAT	08	NORWEGIAN JEWEL CORAL PRINCESS	07.00 09.00	20.00 18.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, handlers say, predicting 6 more weeks of wintry weather

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and MARK SCOLFORO

Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP)

— Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow Sunday and predicted six more weeks of wintry weather, his top-hatted handlers announced to a raucous, record-sized crowd at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania.

Phil was welcomed with chants of "Phil, Phil, Phil," and pulled from a hatch on his tree stump shortly after sunrise before a member of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club read from a scroll in which he boasted: "Only I know — you can't trust A.I."

The woodchuck's weather forecast is an annual ritual that goes back more than a century in western Pennsylvania, with far older roots in European folklore, but it took Bill Murray's 1993 "Groundhog Day" movie to transform the event into what it is today, with tens of thousands of revelers at the scene and imitators scattered around the United States and beyond. When Phil is deemed to have not seen his shadow, that is said to usher in an early spring. When he does see it, there will be six more weeks of winter.

The crowd was treated to a fireworks show, confetti and live music that ranged from the Ramones to "Pennsylvania Polka" as



Groundhog Club handler A.J. Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 139th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

they awaited sunrise and Phil's emergence. Gov. Josh Shapiro, local and state elected officials and a pair of pageant winners were among the dignitaries at the scene.

Self-employed New York gingerbread artist Jon Lovitch has attended the event for 33 years.

"I like the cold, you know, and this is probably the best and biggest midwinter party in the entire world," Lovitch said in Punxsutawney. "And it's just a really good time."

Phil has predicted a longer winter far more often than an early spring, and one effort to track his accuracy concluded he was right less than half the time. What six more weeks of winter means is subjective.

Tom Dunkel, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog

Club, says there are two types of people who make the trek to Gobbler's Knob: the faithful seeking to validate their beliefs and the doubters who want to confirm their skepticism.

Phil communicated his forecast to Dunkel through "Groundhog-ese" with the help of a special cane that Dunkel has inherited as the club's leader. It's not as if

he speaks in English words. "He'll like wink, he'll purr, he'll chatter, he'll — you know — nod," Dunkel said. Attendance is free but it cost \$5 to take a bus and avoid a 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) trek from the middle of town to the stage where the prediction was made, some 80 miles (123 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh. □



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

ImSan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

St. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433

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2 Bed WK 51 Ocean view	\$65,500
2 Bed WK 52 Ocean View	\$65,500
2 Bed WK 7 and 14 - all views	

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Oceanside	\$15,500
2 Bed Ocean view	\$14,500
2 Bed Garden view	\$13,000
3 Bed Ocean view	\$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean front	\$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View	\$17,000

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view	\$17,000
1 Bed Oceanfront	\$13,000
1 Bed Ocean View	\$11,500

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Eagles land in New Orleans for Super Bowl week

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Eagles have landed.

The Philadelphia Eagles' charter flight touched down in New Orleans on Sunday afternoon, a week before their Feb. 9 Super Bowl matchup against the Kansas City Chiefs, who were slated to land about 90 minutes later.

Eagles players and staff descended from their plane onto the tarmac under sunny skies before boarding six buses bound for their downtown hotels.

One of the pilots dangled a green-and-white flag from the cockpit window that read, "Geaux Birds," a



A member of the flight crew waves a Philadelphia Eagles flag after arriving at New Orleans international airport, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, in Kenner, La. ahead of the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Associated Press

play on the pronunciation of French words — as well as many last names in Louisiana — that end with the letters "eaux." The players mostly wore

back sweatsuits with a "Super Bowl LIX" logo across the chest and made their way to their buses without much fanfare. Media members were kept behind barricades and there were no interviews.

The Eagles (17-3) advanced to the Super Bowl by beating the Washington Commanders 55-23 in the NFC championship game. The Chiefs (17-2), who are seeking to become the first team to win three straight Super Bowls, took the AFC crown with a 32-29 victory over the Buffalo Bills. □

Luka Doncic heads to the Lakers and Anthony Davis goes to the Mavs in blockbuster trade

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

Luka Doncic led Dallas to the NBA Finals last season. Anthony Davis won a championship with the Los Angeles Lakers.

They have switched teams now — in an absolute blockbuster.

Doncic has been traded by the reigning Western Conference champion Mavericks to the Los Angeles Lakers for Davis. The trade was announced Sunday morning, after the teams got the required league approval on all the terms involved in the deal.

Doncic, Maxi Kleber and Markieff Morris are headed to the Lakers, while Davis and Max Christie are going to Dallas.

The Utah Jazz also are involved in the deal, getting Jalen Hood-Schifino and two draft picks — second-rounders this year, one from the Lakers and one from the Mavs.

The trade news broke about an hour after the Lakers beat New York at Madison Square Garden. Davis was not with the Lakers for the game; he has been back in Los Angeles because of an abdominal injury that needed assessing.

Doncic has not played for Dallas since Christmas, when he exited a game



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic drives against Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

with a strained left calf. The trade may come at a serious price for Doncic, who now can't sign a five-year supermax contract extension this summer that could have been worth around \$345 million.

It was never clear if the Mavs would have offered such a massive deal. Doncic would have also had an option to leave as a free agent after the 2025-26 season if he wanted, and it's certain that other teams would have — and probably already were — planning for that scenario with hopes of landing the Slovenian star.

"We really feel like we got ahead of what was going

to be a tumultuous summer, him being eligible for the supermax and also a year away from him being able to opt out of any contract," Mavericks general manager Nico Harrison told The Dallas Morning News. "And so we really felt like we got out in front of that. We know teams, they've had it out there, teams have been loading up to try to sign him once that comes available."

Doncic is still extension eligible this summer, with the max that the Lakers could offer him being five years at about \$230 million — a \$115 million difference than what the supermax could have been.

The deal, at least for now, pairs Doncic with LeBron James as the new 1-2 punch in Los Angeles, while Davis would be forming a new star duo with Kyrie Irving in Dallas. And it also reunites Doncic with his former teammate, Lakers coach JJ Redick.

Doncic was one of the Mavericks players on the floor when Redick came out of a game for the final time on May 11, 2021.

There was one game still going on in the NBA on Saturday night when reports began swirling of the trade, that being Phoenix-Portland. Suns guard Devin Booker said someone in the stands told him and his

teammates of the trade.

"They said Luka. I said, 'Luka Garza?'" Booker said, referencing a Minnesota center.

Booker wasn't trying to be funny. He just thought what many probably thought — that there was no way the Mavs would move Doncic.

"It's crazy, man. I really don't know what to say about it," Booker said.

"Luka being a guy that everybody has claimed is untouchable and untradeable. The NBA shows you again. Can't predict. It's a business. They're always having a conversation about you. So don't think you're safer than you are."

Added fellow Suns star Kevin Durant: "Insane. It's crazy. Crazy. Damn, would of never thought Luka Doncic would get traded. At his age, midseason, the NBA is a wild place, man. If he can get traded then anybody is up for grabs."

And there was immediate shock on social media when the news hit as well.

"Luka getting traded from Dallas has to have a deeper story behind it," Cleveland center Tristan Thompson wrote on X. "This just doesn't happen on a random Saturday night."

"Wait what?" posted Patrick Mahomes, the star Kansas City quarterback who sits courtside. □

Ohtani's return to pitching could come in May for World Series champion Dodgers

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Shohei Ohtani pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers in May is "about right," manager Dave Roberts said Saturday at the team's annual fan fest.

He reiterated that Ohtani won't pitch in the season-opening Japan Series against the Chicago Cubs on March 18-19 in Tokyo.

The two-way superstar hasn't pitched in the majors since August 2023, when he was with the Los Angeles Angels. The right-hander had surgery on his left shoulder on Nov. 5 after dislocating it on a stolen base attempt in Game 2 of the World Series against the New York Yankees.

"He looks really strong," Roberts said. "I saw some videos recently and you just wouldn't think that there was any shoulder surgery this past winter."

The Dodgers begin reporting to spring camp in Arizona on Feb. 10.

"As of now, it seems like I'm on schedule," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "I've been able to work out every day and I'm really looking forward to being on time for spring training and the season."

However, Ohtani said he cannot pinpoint when exactly he will take the mound.

"The shoulder surgery is a complicated surgery compared to the elbow," he said, referring to his right elbow surgery in September 2023. "I had to work on the range of motion. There's some residual effect in the labrum."

Ohtani said he'll know more after he throws his first bullpen session.

"Then I think we're going to really get a feel for when I'll be able to be on a big league mound," he said.

Freddie Freeman

World Series MVP Freddie Freeman said he started hitting this week for the first time since having ankle surgery on Dec. 5. The first baseman partially chipped off cartilage, which floated to his Achilles tendon right



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani talks to the media during a baseball interview during DodgerFest at Dodger Stadium, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

above his ankle.

"It was quite a nasty injury I had," he said.

Freeman has yet to be cleared to start running

and doesn't think he'll appear in early spring training games. "As of right now, I'm on track to be able to play in Tokyo," he said.

Clayton Kershaw

Clayton Kershaw has begun a throwing progression and he and the team are in contact to finalize a

contract for the upcoming season.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner, who turns 37 next month, had foot and knee surgeries on Nov. 7. His season ended early because of a left big toe injury, which never got better and kept him out of the postseason.

Days before the operations, he declined his player option for this year and became a free agent.

Kiké Hernández

Dodgers fans registered their support to bring back utilityman Kiké Hernández by chanting his name during fan fest. General manager Brandon Gomes indicated the team is still considering signing him. □



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